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of Carthage is the frequent use of the formula *fidelis in pace*, almost unknown in the thousands of inscriptions from the Roman catacombs. *Fidelis* distinguished a baptized Christian from one who was not, the latter being a catechumen. *In pace*, according to De Rossi, has quite a different meaning in African from what it had in Roman inscriptions: in the latter it meant a spiritual heavenly union, in the former a terrestrial communion with the Church. Africa was so overrun with heresies that even in death the faithful wished to affirm their fidelity to orthodoxy. *In pace vixit*, and *fidelis in pace*, are then formulas attesting this communion with the true Church, and this is shown by the fact of their coming into great use just at the time when the African church was most racked by heresy.

The most interesting piece of Early Christian sculpture found was a relief of the IV century representing the Virgin seated and holding the infant Christ, behind whom is a figure, probably a prophet; while to the left stands a guardian angel. This poetic scene is unfortunately mutilated in almost every figure, but it can easily be imagined that the prophet, as in the even earlier fresco of the cemetery of Priscilla, was pointing to the star above. It is disputed whether, behind the angel, the three Magi may not have been represented as advancing with their offerings, as on the almost contemporary ambone of Thessalonika.

The excavations have not been brought to a close, though they can be continued but slowly through a lack of funds. Much remains to be looked into. Neither the area of the cemetery nor that of the basilica have been entirely uncovered, and no steps have yet been taken toward excavations in a large cemetery back of the early area. In the plateau near the basilica there are indications of most important discoveries. The author says, "We are already certain of finding there a cemetery and large buildings, like a presbytery, monastery, triclinium or baths, dependencies of the vast basilica which we have undertaken to completely uncover." Will not some lover of the early Church hasten the work by contributing at a time when such help is most needed?

A. L. FROTHINGHAM, JR.

DIZIONARIO EPIGRAFICO DI ANTICHITÀ ROMANE di ETTORE DE RUGGIERO. Fasc. I. ABACUS-ACHAIA. R. 8vo. Roma, 1886, Tipog. della R. Accad. dei Lincei.

This work promises to be of real value not only to Italian students of Antiquities but to all interested in the subject, as it will be constructed on a somewhat different plan from previous works of a similar character. The program is "to effect a closer union between the study of Latin epi-

graphy and that of Roman antiquities by diminishing as far as possible the technical and practical difficulties which most students encounter in making use of inscriptions for historical, archæological, and even juridical researches." The writer's main difficulty was one of selection: what words should be considered to have the right of entry. In this respect he resolved to confine himself to those well-proven words that had a strict relation to the different phases of ancient life. The greater part of the vocabulary selected refers, (1) to the mythology with its priesthood, institutions, and rites; (2) the political organization of Rome, Italy, of the provinces and municipalities; (3) the financial, judiciary and military administrations, and their special branches relating to mines, the mint, posts, roads, wheat supply, food, public works, etc.; the offices of the court, patrimony, chancelry, council of state, libraries, etc., of the emperor; (4) the sources of private jurisprudence, as laws, senatusconsulta, edicts and constitutions, etc.; (5) social orders and corporations; (6) professions, arts and trades; (7) public games, popular celebrations, and many customs and objects of daily life.

The few pages of the dictionary contained in the first fasciculus of 32 pp. hardly enable one to judge even in general how well the program announced above is being carried out. The reputation of the author, however, is a good guarantee that the work will be done in a scholarly manner. Of special interest are the articles *Accensus* and *Achaia*.

A. L. F. JR.